

# A Sense of Wonder

April 5, 2012

Stories of Nature, Science & History

A Conference for Teachers of Grades 3–8 and School Librarians

Presented by John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site & John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

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## Registration .....

Registrations are accepted in the order in which they are received. *Conference space is limited – please register early.*

Name .....

Home address .....

City/State ..... Zip code .....

Phone .....

Email address .....

School/organization .....

Grade/position .....

Please list choices for the Concurrent Sessions (A, B, C, D or E):

1st choice ..... 2nd choice ..... 3rd choice .....

Please list choices for Meet the Authors (1, 2, 3, or 4):

1st choice ..... 2nd choice ..... 3rd choice .....

Registration fee is \$90 and includes handouts, morning coffee and lunch. **Registration form and payment must be received by March 9, 2012.** To reduce carbon footprint, we are sending confirmation packets via email. Help us by including your email address. Please make check or purchase order payable to **Eastern National**, and mail with completed registration form to:

Liza Stearns  
Kennedy National Historic Site  
c/o 99 Warren Street  
Brookline, MA 02445

For information, contact Sam Rubin at (617) 514-1650 or Liza Stearns at (617) 201-7217.  
*Reproduce registration form as needed.*



In 1962, astronaut John Glenn's historic orbital flight captured the public's imagination and spurred an ever-growing fascination with rocketry and outer space on the part of America's youth. That same year, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* warned that overuse of chemical pesticides was endangering the web of life on planet Earth. Her book helped to launch an environmental movement, stirring young people's interest in ecology and in caring for the natural world. As we recall these landmark events of 50 years ago, join us to consider how stories of nature, science and history can be used to inspire today's students with a sense of wonder and conscientious stewardship.

President Kennedy inspects the *Friendship 7* Mercury capsule with Lt. Col. John Glenn at Cape Canaveral, Florida, 1962. Photograph by Cecil Stoughton.



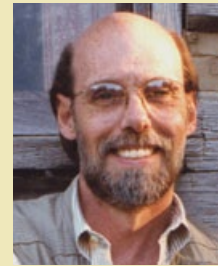
**David Aguilar** is an astronomer, author, renowned space artist and educator with tremendous enthusiasm for bringing the wonders of the universe to

young people. He has written and illustrated several riveting astronomy books for National Geographic, including *13 Planets: The Latest View of the Solar System*. David is currently Director of Science Information at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.



**Joy Hakim** has won wide acclaim for *A History of US*, her richly detailed and absorbing narrative of American history for middle school readers that

also served as the basis for a PBS television series. Now, in *The Story of Science* series (co-published by Smithsonian Books and the National Science Teachers Association), Joy takes readers of all ages from ancient Sumer to the most recent supernovae sightings.



**Wendell Minor** is a celebrated artist and children's book illustrator who communicates his love of nature and of America's landscapes and history to

young readers through exquisitely detailed and timeless images. He has collaborated on many books with Newbery Medal-winner Jean Craighead George, most recently on *The Buffalo are Back*. Wendell has also produced two books with former astronaut Buzz Aldrin.



**Sy Montgomery** is one of today's most compelling nature writers. Together with photographer Nic Bishop, she launched the popular *Scientists in the Field* series for

young readers – “true stories about passionate people whose love of wild animals leads them to solve scientific mysteries and dedicate their lives to protecting animals and their homes.” Their most recent book, *Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot*, was awarded the 2011 Sibert Medal.



**Anita Silvey** has been an authoritative voice in the world of children's literature for many years – as an editor, publisher, reviewer, teacher, NPR commentator

and, most recently, as creator of the on-line *Children's Book-a-Day Almanac*. She also writes books for children and young adults. Her newest is *The Plant Hunters: True Stories of Their Daring Adventures to the Far Corners of the Earth*.



**Catherine Thimmesh** has written books for young readers on science topics including space exploration, inventions and discoveries by women, and human origins.

*Team Moon* received the 2007 Sibert Medal for most distinguished informational book, and her newest title, *Friends: True Stories of Extraordinary Animal Friendships*, has been selected as one of the Outstanding Science Trade Books for 2012.

This conference addresses Massachusetts learning standards for English Language Arts, History and Science.



April 5, 2012

# A Sense of Wonder

## Stories of Nature, Science & History

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston, MA

8:00 Registration

8:30 Welcome

8:45 Science as Story

How do authors tell a compelling story about science and nature for young readers? How can stories of exploration, discovery and technological innovation inspire wonder about the world as we know it and curiosity about the discoveries yet to be made? In this opening session, Anita Silvey leads a wide ranging discussion with Joy Hakim, Wendell Minor, Sy Montgomery and Catherine Thimmesh.

10:00 Book Browsing

10:40 A Golden Age for Astronomy

From dark matter and dark energy, astronomers are now hot on the trail of the first Earth-like planets orbiting distant stars. It truly is a golden age of discovery for space scientists! David Aguilar takes us on an exciting visual journey from what we thought was a “standard” solar system to distant planetary systems that defy our imaginations.

11:45 Lunch

12:30 Concurrent Sessions | List your first, second and third choices on your registration form.

**A A Natural Fit: Environmental Exploration and Creative Writing | Grades 3-5.**

Children love to write about their experiences with the natural world. Lavinia Schoene, director of the Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies, shows how the schoolyard and nearby locale provide a wealth of opportunities for integrating nature and science activities with creative writing.

**B Celestial Navigation | Grades 3-5**

How did the early mariners, pirates, and travelers use the sun, moon and stars to navigate over ocean and land? EcoTarium educator Alexander Dunn leads a hands-on session featuring scientific tools that opened an age of exploration and revolutionized people’s understanding of the world.

**C Connecting Youth to Nature through Real-World Science | Grades 6-8**

Nineteenth-century industrialization led to remarkable improvements, but had a devastating impact on the ecological health of Boston’s harbor. Learn how citizen-science and summer programs engage teens in collecting critical data used by scientists and land managers to improve the harbor’s ecological health. Dawn Tesorero, Boston Harbor Islands national park area; Carolyn Lewenberg, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center; Jennifer Felicetti and Tom Hocker, Boston Public Schools.

**D Selecting Science Books for Your Library | Grades 3-8**

Children’s literature expert Anita Silvey discusses outstanding books that can be used to stimulate young readers’ interest in nature and science, as well as criteria for selection. She also shares observations on the art of narrative nonfiction and the writing of her most recent book, *Plant Hunters*.

**E Integrating Literature and STEM Makes Learners Bloom | Grades 6-8.**

Linking literature to science, technology, engineering and mathematics creates a great integrated program for diverse learners. Noted science educator Juliana Texley leads hands-on explorations and shows how to make seamless connections across disciplines. Juliana is author of *The Story of Science Classroom Companion* for Joy Hakim’s *Einstein Adds a New Dimension*.

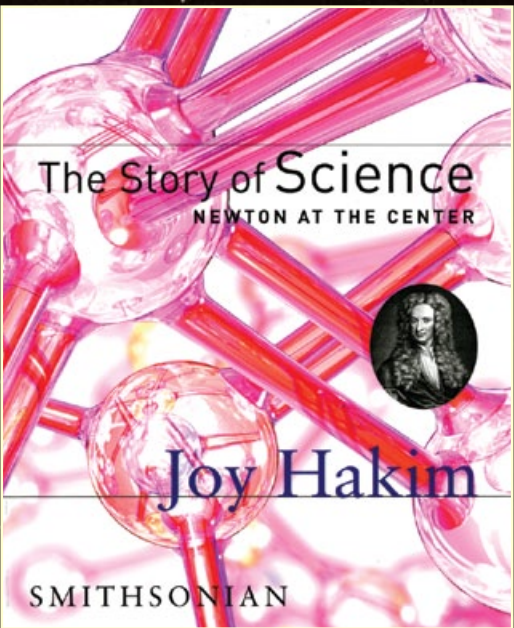
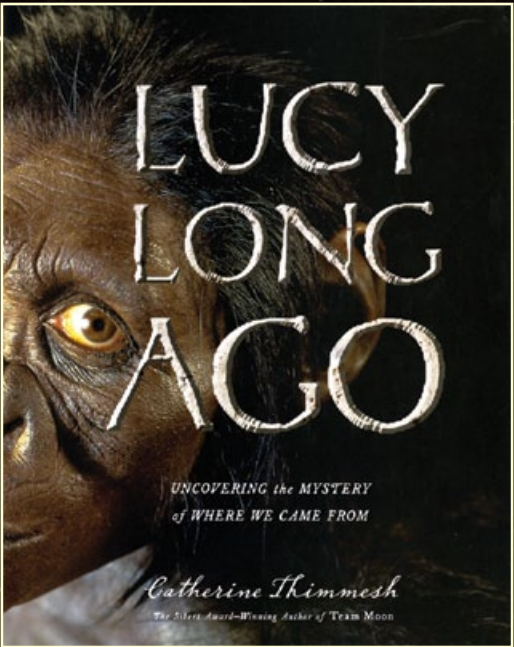
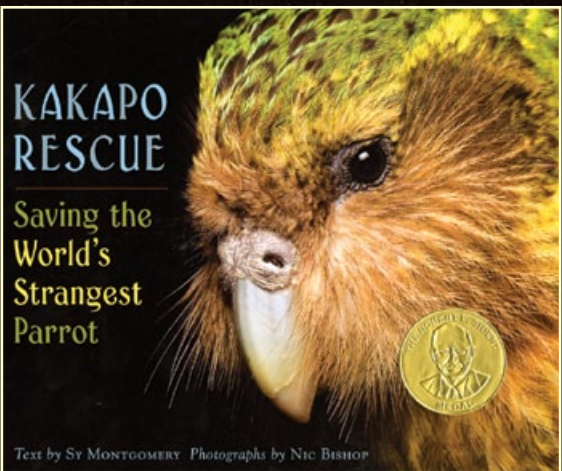
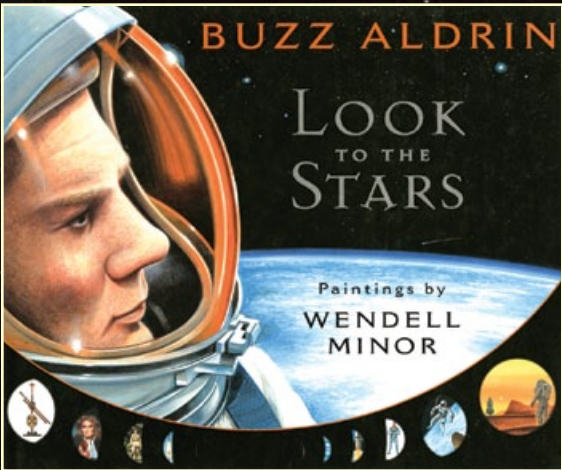
1:40 Meet the Authors | List your first, second and third choices on your registration form.

Guest authors meet with participants to discuss their work and conference-related topics.

1 Joy Hakim 2 Wendell Minor 3 Sy Montgomery 4 Catherine Thimmesh

2:45 Closing Session

3:00 Book Signing



This brochure features paintings by Wendell Minor from the book *The Wolves are Back* collaged with space paintings by David Aguilar from his book *13 Planets: The Latest View of the Solar System*.